Chinese Action Flick Comes to MFA

Before you go, see our film review Page 8



Yoon to Chair Committee on Housing

Sam Yoon can't get away from housing advocacy.

A former housing advocate, Yoon was appointed in January to chair the council's committee on housing.

As chair, Yoon, the first Asian American to serve on the Boston City Council, will schedule hearings on issues forwarded to the committee by the city council. The committee also has the power to schedule hearings on issues it deems relevant.
Yoon was pleased with the

appointment.

"It fits well with my background and my professional experience," he said. "It is one of the most crucial issues facing the city - and Chinatown."

Yoon's work around housing

in Boston includes working at the Asian Community Development Corporation and the Community

d zations that focu

Builders, organizations that focus on affordable housing and economic development. He has also

CONTINUED PAGE 5

SAMPAN # #

February 17, 2006 Vol. XXXIII

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閒話美華—加華大贏家

整形美容手術概要

The Dog Days Have Begun...



It took seven women from the Gund Kwok Asian Women's Lion Dance Troupe to create this "dragon," which performed as part of the city's celebration of Chinese New Year — the Year of the Dog. See inside for coverage of Chinatown's and Malden's New Year celebrations.

Photo by Brian Loeb

Her Turn to Talk

Founder of Asian American Bank discusses her replacement as president and the bank's recent sale

These days, Vivian Wenhuey Chen Huang spends much of her time at her Andover home writing poetry and painting. Calm and soft-spoken, she hardly looks like the pioneering businesswoman she once was. But it was only about 15 years ago that Huang succeeded in what others tried to do but failed: start a Chinatown-based bank in Boston catering to the needs of Chinese immigrants.

At a time when the local banking business was hurting, and banks were closing instead of opening, Huang managed to pull together enough investors to raise the \$7.5 million needed to get a state charter to open the Asian American Bank. And by many measures, the bank thrived in its beginning years under the leadership of Huang, a lawyer by training and practice, who worked daily at the bank until 10 or 11 p.m. In 1997, four years after Asian American Bank opened its doors, an article in the Boston Herald said the bank had "beat the odds" by serving a niche market of local Asian Americans, a group that grew rapidly in Massachusetts over the 1990s. The bank grew swiftly, and in 2001, it reached what Huang called the "critical point" of \$100 million in assets.

It was at about that time that she was "pushed out" – as she puts it – as president and CEO,

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Party with the Sampan

Sampan will sponsor a free karaoke night for our readers at Limelight on February 24, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Free karaoke and snacks. Bring your family and friends. For more information call (617) 426-9492, Ext. 206. Limelight is at 204 Tremont St. Ask for a free copy of the Asian American Year Book.

SAMPAN

A.A.C.A. 200 Tremont Street Boston, MA 02116 U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 54358 PRE-SORT STANDARD BOSTON, MA

ah-Lin!

by Lillian Chan

I'm at that age where everyone is either already married or about ready to.







Bio-What? Lab Gets Federal OK

By Adam Smith

Some extreme critics call the planned laboratory a "bio-terror" lab. Proponents, meanwhile, label it a biosafety lab. The federal funding source of the lab says it's to be used for biodefense research.

Whatever the moniker, the lab proposed by Boston University Medical Center that will research the world's deadliest "level 4" pathogens got its final OK earlier this month from the federal gov-

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is paying for \$128 million of the high-tech lab, selected BUMC in 2003 to house the facility, one of several high-security labs across the nation that will study deadly pathogens as part of the Institute's "biodefense research agenda."

Despite opposition by commu-

nity groups and others, the laboratory, which was supported by several public officials including Mayor Thomas M. Menino, easily passed local reviews in 2004, and

two weeks ago it received the final go-ahead from the National Institutes of Health.

BUMC plans to start constructing the lab sometime this month

and estimates that it will take

about two and a half years to complete the project, which will be located in the South End, a neighborhood next to Chinatown.

Study: Asian Voting Patterns for 2005 Election

By Adam Smith

From impressions of U.S. president George W. Bush to choices for city candidates in Boston, a new exit poll sheds some light on the backgrounds and political persuasions of local Asian American voters in the 2005 elec-

The exit poll questioned about 300 volunteers at polling sites in Boston's Chinatown, Fields Corner and Lowell.

Most of those surveyed were of Chinese or Cambodian decent, while a minority was of Vietnamese decent.

Here are some of the key findings of the exit poll, conducted by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund:

Most were registered Democrats. Chinese and Cambodian respondents were registered as Democrats, but Vietnamese were the opposite: More registered as Republicans than Democrats.

Many are first-time voters. One-third of Cambodians voted for the first time in the 2005 elec-

tion, while one-fifth of Chinese and 6% of Vietnamese also voted for the first time in the election. Most have limited ability to speak in English. About six in 10 respondents said they had a limited ability to speak in

Romney is liked more than **Bush.** Most Boston respondents approved of Governor Mitt Romney's performance while most respondents gave president Bush a poor rating.

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Asian American Bank Founder Goes on Record

FROM PAGE 1

and reduced to one of about 16 directors of the bank. She remained on the board of directors, along with her husband, from 2001 until the bank was purchased late last year by a California-based bank holding company.

Huang had previously declined to discuss in depth with the media her removal as head of the bank she founded and the bank's subsequent sale. Last week, however, she discussed both in a 70-minute interview with the Sampan.

Huang, a slim, bespectacled woman, who even in retirement exudes an air of crisp professionalism in both dress and attitude, described her departure as president and CEO as premature and based more on unfair personal squabbles and jealousy than on her performance as a leader. She said that in many ways, the sale of the bank was the best long-term option for the bank.

Huang said that many on the board, including herself, were largely inexperienced in banking — though perhaps successful in other careers as medical doctors and engineers.

Huang, a trained lawyer, also alleged that some directors envied the attention she received as president and CEO of the bank, and that they were hungry for control. "They wanted their hands in every piece of pie," she said. "It was like their own private club." Other directors contested these accusations.

Though she turned the bank into a \$100 million operation within the first eight years, she said, several board members did not see this as a success and thought the growth was too slow. The bank needed the community's trust to succeed, she said, and a shake-up at the top could compromise that trust.

Huang indicated she felt the bank's success suffered after her dismissal as president and CEO in 2001. Yet looking at the bank's balance sheet shows a mixed picture. From December 31, 2001 to June 30, 2005, the annual return on average assets fell from .74% to .37%. But in the years after her leadership, the bank's assets did grow — by nearly \$30 million to about \$130 million — and so did its total deposits.

According to Raymond Tung, who was president and CEO of the bank from around 2002, several "house cleaning" measures were needed when he came on board. He said he had to close some 200 accounts that he didn't "feel comfortable with" - for example accounts with strange names from faraway states - and upgrade the level of professionalism at the bank. In addition, he closed two branches that were not profitable. The measures, he said, might have affected costs in the short run, but led to long-term stability and health.

The economy in 2001 took many hits. The dot.com business had just gone bust and terrorist attacks shocked the U.S. In the past several years, other Chinese American banks such as Cathay General Bancorp have grown, while mainstream banks such as Citizens and Bank of America have hired more bilingual staff and offered more bilingual ATM machines. In addition, in reaction to the September 11 terrorist attacks, the federal government has been tightening the regulations on

The Other Side of the Story

While two former employees -- one an assistant manager and another a lending and mortgage officer -called Huang "hardworking" and a "good businesswoman," a former manager who worked at the bank in the mid-1990s said that when she heard Huang was voted down, she "was so happy, that's all I can say, everybody was happy."
Several directors maintained that the reason Huang was voted out as president was because the board wanted someone with more banking experience, such as Raymond Tung, who had more than 30 years of banking experience, including work for J.P. Morgan Chase, before joining Asian

"We were not trying to get rid of her, we were trying to get somebody with banking experience," said longtime director Harold Kwok. "We thought that someone with banking experience would take the bank to the next level," he said, adding that Huang had done an "amazing" job running the bank for someone without prior banking experience. Kwok's recollection of the vote was supported by several other directors, who also said they felt the bank simply needed a leader who was more experienced in banking.

"It was a very difficult time, nobody wanted to play a role in removing a president and CEO," said former longtime director Cecilia Sze.

"Did it put the bank in a better position? Yes it did."

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Kwok and others said that Huang probably felt hurt after she was replaced as president and CEO, but that the directors were only looking out for the good of the bank.

Edward Chiang, another longtime director, said that Huang did a good job leading the bank and agreed with Huang's description of a board that was often squabbling and "difficult to work with." But he attributed much of that to the size of the 16-person board. And while he -- as well as several other directors - disagreed that the board was "jealous" of Huang's attention as president, he did say that some directors may have disliked Huang more for her interpersonal skills than for her performance as a leader.

"Well, let's face it. In the Chinese community, the personality difficulties are always there. It doesn't matter which organization," he said.

When asked if he felt, in retrospect, that Huang was voted off as president unfairly, Chiang said: "Looking back, I cannot say it's unfair. As a (leader), you have to be able to manage the personality conflicts."

The Beginnings

A native of Taiwan, Huang studied law in Taipei and later at Indiana University. She began a legal career at Ropes & Gray in 1973 after moving to Massachusetts with her husband, and worked there until January of 1990 when she decided to start the Asian American Bank.

A major reason she wanted to open the bank, she said, was because other mainstream banks were not adequately serving the area's Chinese community.

The banks, she said, would take money from the Chinese who trusted them enough to open accounts, and then invest the money outside the community, deciding against loaning money to Chinatown businesses or organizations.

She felt that, at the time, tellers at mainstream banks treated Chinese immigrants "very rudely" and didn't understand, trust or care about their Chinese clientele. When Asian American Bank opened, it provided

randolph

. mec

services and products that targeted the Chinese American community - including bilingual staff and materials as well as late and weekend hours. "We were the first ones to open late and to open on weekends" — and the moment it was legal — "we opened on Sundays," she said.

But starting the bank in the early 1990s was a gamble. In 1991, Huang and other investors failed to raise enough money for a national bank charter.

When they did get a state charter in 1993, the odds for success were against them: from about 1988 to 1994, nearly 40 banks failed in Massachusetts, according to Joseph A. Leonard Jr., deputy commissioner of banks and general counsel at the Massachusetts Division of Banks.

"It was a difficult time to be in the banking business," said Leonard.

Between about 1992 and 1996, Asian American Bank was the only bank to receive a state charter.

But the risk paid off.

The bank grew over the years and by the time it was sold in late November of 2005, it had three branches and around \$130 million in total assets.

California Takeover

Huang said she has mixed feelings about seeing the bank she founded — but had very little control over after 2001 — get purchased by a bank from out of state.

From her perspective, she felt that Asian American Bank was not as successful as it should have been after she was replaced in 2001 -- "long and short, the bank was not doing well." Huang felt the sale of the bank was best in the long-run interests. (Several other directors felt that bank was, in fact, run better after Huang's dismissal as president.)

She also feared that other directors -- she refused to name them - wanted to turn the bank into a "family bank" -- though other directors did not agree with this. "The only person I heard espouse that idea was Vivian," said Jerry Boos, a director and co-founder of the bank.

Tung declined to specu-

late on the possibility.

Longtime director
Chiang, who spoke highly
of Huang's performance as a
former leader and founder
of the bank, suggested
Huang herself might have
become too close to the
bank.

"Most founding fathers of an organization make the mistake of treating the organization as his or her own baby," he said.

But Huang was willing to let her "baby" go when the bank was sold to UCBH Holdings, a San Franciscobased bank holding company, that also serves the Chinese American community, purchased Asian American Bank for about \$34.3 million.

Though the bank's official version of the sale is that UCBH approached Asian American Bank,

Huang indicated she played a role in the sale, saying that "I was delighted that I was able to help arrange this

While regretting that Asian American Bank never became a larger operation like UCBH — "why could they do it," she asked, "and we couldn't?" — she did feel the merger was best for the bank.

The purchase, she said, was beneficial to customers and shareholders of Asian American Bank and employees, as most have been retained by UCBH.

"UCBH, I think, is the right buyer," said Huang. "Because they are a Chinese American bank, they will understand our customer base and can continue to serve our customers."

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Boston residents overwhelmed a public meeting about the redevelopment of Ming's Market at a meeting in 2004. Sampan file photo

Ming's Market to Stay

By Adam Smith

A year and a half ago, Ming's Market, an Asian grocer in the South End, feared it would lose its longtime rental space to a housing development. Not anymore. Ming's has reached a tentative agreement with its landlord, the Hamilton Company, who will allow the market to stay – and get an upgraded storefront – for extra rent.

The Hamilton Company promises to "update" Ming's storefront and make other improvements to the building at 1102 Washington St. where the store is located. In addition, the landlord will build out Ming's space where a 2,000 square-foot lot currently exists on Washington Street.

Ming's, meanwhile, will

pay a higher rent and remove its pull-down grates from the storefront. According to the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the city's development arm, the market has also agreed to purchase energy-saving refrigerators and possibly add an additional entrance on East Berkeley Street.

Simon Chan, a management consultant to Ming's, however, has said the store is looking into buying energy-efficient refrigerators.

"That part is in the exploration stage," said Chan.

As for the rental increase, Chan said that Ming's current rent of "about" \$400,000 per year will increase by about 20%. But the Hamilton Company will offer other rental discounts and extra retail space with the new addi-

tion. He said that in the end, the actual increase will equal 5% to 10%.

Chan, who said that the lease agreement was almost certain but not yet in written form, praised the Hamilton Company's willingness to compromise with the market.

"They are tough in negotiating, but they are reasonable and open-minded," said Chan of the landlord, who owns several properties in the Greater Boston area. "You have to give them credit for their willingness to negotiate with the community."

According to Carl Valeri, president of the-Hamilton Company, Ming's was also a tough negotiator. "They hired a very effective consultant, Thomas O'Malley," said Valeri. "Both parties got close to what they wanted."

In 2004, the Hamilton Company planned to use an escape clause in Ming's lease that would allow it to remove the market and build a 96-unit housing complex called Hamilton Towne Gate at the site. Valeri said that the Hamilton Company is not yet eyeing another nearby space to replace its housing plans.

Ming's has been located at its Washington Street site since 1990, and employs about 90 workers.

Mayor Thomas M.
Menino, who has supported keeping Ming's in its current location, said in a prepared statement: "I'm thrilled that these two parties have come to an agreement that provides the best solution for the community."

Chinatown Gets Scoop on Emergency Plan

EVACUATION

ROUTE

By Adam Smith

Chinatown was briefed on Boston's emergency evacuation plan earlier this month, yet some logistical questions still linger on how the city will communicate with non-English speakers in an emergency.

Glen Brenner, an advisor to Mayor Thomas M.
Menino, gave a "snapshot" description of the city's disaster plan to the Chinatown Safety Committee, a group of neighborhood leaders and residents, area university officials, police, and business owners.

The 30-minute presentation included an overview of the plan, which has designated routes for escaping the city, special blue and white street signs to direct

traffic, and a pamphlet on emergency preparedness.

The plan also involves the use of about 75 designated emergency centers

that include schools and community centers, a broadcast telecommunication system called "reverse 911" that warns and directs residents during a disaster, and coordination between emergency agencies in Boston.

Detailed information, as well as a translated pamphlet on preparedness, can be found at www.cityofboston.gov/emergency.

Brenner, who apologized for forgetting to bring the maps and other visuals typically used in the presentation, said the idea for the plan originated during preparation for the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston.

Disasters such as Hurricane Katrina prompted officials to extend the plan.

"In the wake of the hurricanes down in the Gulf

threats to minor accidents.

Especially important are

printed in English and

Spanish and written con-

cisely, I am not impressed

because only one sentence

s written in Chinese. And

front cover. The sentence in

remind Chinese readers to

get the information from a

city Web site. Is it insincere

to the Chinese community

to ask them to take the

effort to get something

from the Internet when

that was not even on the

Chinese is written to

and advice.

numbers listed to get help

Although the booklet is

Coast this fall, the mayor asked the director of Homeland Security here in Boston to take a fresh look at the city's evacuation plan," said Brenner, adding that the mayor "learned from the lessons" of Hurricane Katrina.

The city recently mailed out 280,000 emergency preparedness pamphlets "to every household in the city," said Brenner, but all those pamphlets are in English.

Several members of the safety committee indicated they had not yet received the pamphlets, and a reporter asked if they would be translated.

Brenner said they would be translated and mailed out "sometime in the next several weeks." So far, the

city's Web site has the information translated into five languages including Chinese and Vietnamese.

When asked if the "reverse 911"

broadcast messages could be in languages other than English, Brenner said: "That's one piece of technology that we're working on [but it's] an issue and we're not sure how we're going to resolve it. Obviously it's an issue of concern, but the technology may not allow us to send messages in multiple lan-

Boston has a high immigrant population, and more than 44,000 Asian
Americans reside in the

Brenner said that the plan will be constantly revised, and that in a couple months the city would give a more detailed description of the evacuation plan to Chinatown and other neighborhoods.

Environmental Health 101 for Chinatown

"Anyone know the (Chinese) word for urani-

This was one of the more difficult words translated from English to Chinese in a Chinatown presentation last week on environmental health and the concept of "environmental justice."

The presentation was the first of a year-long series by the Chinatown Resident Association and Tufts University professor of environmental health Doug Brugge.

The workshops are funded in part by a \$25,000 grant from the Chinatown Trust that will also support other programs of the Chinatown Resident Association, including its newsletter.

Jun Xie, administrative director of the CRA, said the workshops are intended to continue earlier environmental health and justice efforts by another group, the Campaign to Protect Chinatown.

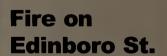
"It's good to remind people... that we have to stand up and fight for their interests," said Xie. "We want to educate people on this issue."

She said that area highway work and building developments can cause environmental pollution for Chinatown residents. Topics of future workshops -- there will be six in total -- will talk about asthma, environmental regulations, crime, and insect control

At the first session,
Brugge used a slideshow
presentation to introduce
the concept of environmental justice and environmental hazards to about 30
Chinatown residents.

Said Xie afterwards:
"(the Chinatown residents)
could relate it to their daily
life."

-Adam Smith



No, the smoke on January 21 on Edinboro Street was not early preparation for the New Year celebration. It was a building on fire.

At 6:13 p.m., flames started scorching the second floor of 17 Edinboro St., a residential and commercial building that houses the Wah Lum Kung Fu school.

"The fire department arrived three minutes after the call," said Lieutenant David Pfeil.

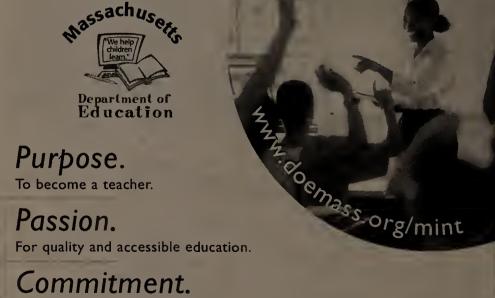
Julian Cassanetti, who lives in an apartment at 17 Edinboro St., said he witnessed some of the damage.

"I came home from work (to see) about three or four fire trucks and a bunch of cops (outside the building)," he said. "There was water damage... and the door to Wah Lum was charred."

Chinese Not Helped by Emergency Plan I recently got Mayor many of these people do not have Internet access. Menino's "Ready Boston" pamphlet informing citi-Also, it is also completely zens of Boston about an outrageous to not give out emergency evacuation. The a city government phone number for the Chinese booklet shows detailed and useful recommendations on community which includes many elderly citizens who how to tackle problems ranging from terrorist

are computer illiterate. I urge the Chinese community to stand up and request that this and future municipal notices be written in Chinese. English and Spanish. Our community has been part of Boston for more than 50 years and deserves this treatment since these people pay taxes and are American citizens. Mayor Menino, please wake up, heed to this concern, and start respecting the cultural identity of Boston's Chinese community.

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An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Sam Yoon

FROM PAGE 1

managed development projects in Chinatown and the Greater Boston area. His masters' research at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government focused on community economic development.

Asian CDC's executive director Jeremy Liu said Yoon was a "natural fit" for the job, and that the group was looking forward to working with Yoon on future projects.

"We're expecting to figure out how to make sure in Chinatown we can bring resources into the neighborhood so that there is no more displacement of local families," Liu said. Yoon said he would take a pragmatic approach in addressing the city's housing issues.

'We need to give incentives to developers to build affordable housing, but also give them requirements, too," he said. "We need to give them basic minimums that they have to do.'

The comment echoed statements he made during the campaign, when he said the city should use "carrots and sticks" to increase housing opportunities for middle wage earners.

One of his top priorities will be an attempt to revive rent stabilization legislation.

Yoon plans to work with community activists and developers to draft a bill that protects tenants from large rent increases but is also acceptable to landlords.

A previous version of the bill - known as the Community Stabilization Act -- was defeated 8 to 5 at a city council vote in December 2004. A similar measure was rejected by the council in 2002.

"It's failed twice already," Yoon said. "A third time would be tragic."

Yoon also wants to extend clauses in housing development contacts that require owners to provide units for low or middle wage-earners. Some developments in the city from the 1970s and 1980s have these clauses, but they are only valid for 20 or 25 years after construction is completed. Yoon wants to make them permanent.

Councilor Charles Yancey, who chaired the Housing Committee from 2003 to 2005, supports the

"Just because the mortgage is paid doesn't release the owner from the responsibility to have affordable units," he said.

Yoon said that he will have to work closely with fellow counselors to draft housing policy. Because housing policy frequently

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Assistant Director of

Property Management

The Assistant Director ensures that properties managed by Urban Edge Property Management (UEPM) provide high-quality property management and customer service to residents. The Assistant Director acts as Director of Property Management in the absence of the Director. S/he must possess exemplary leadership and organizational skills and have a proven track record of problem solving and knowledge in the area of property management. The Assistant Director must also have a history of and commitment to superior customer service

have a history of and commitment to superior customer service and community-based property management. Must have 5 -7 years of progressively responsible affordable housing management experience particularly oversight of large, urban portfolios. Bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of experience and education. Master's degree a plus. Certified Property Management certification preferred. Successful completion of IREM 300 level course, NAHRO (PHM), CHAM (NHMS), or NCHM certification.

Community Development

Organizer

The Community Development Organizer is a dynamic, solution-oriented professional committed to promoting active resident participation in community initiatives designed to develop and sustain stable, healthy and diverse communities. S/he works to develop leadership capabilities among community residents to identify and achieve neighborhood goals. The Community Development Organizer works with other Urban Edge staff to develop broad community participation and support related to neighborhood planning and civic participation. This person plays a key role in fostering and maintaining relationships with residents, organizations, agencies, institutions and other stakeholders in the Urban Edge service area. Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning or related field, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Master's degree preferred. Three years experience in community organizing, community planning, and/or community relations.

involves city, state and federal regulation, housing issues are often referred by the council president to other committees including the Intergovernmental Affairs or the Operations committees.

Yoon was also appointed chair of the Committee on Hunger & Homelessness and will be a member of . several other committees, including education, human rights and youth affairs.

Yancey predicted Yoon's first year on the council will be a positive one. The two have been in contact, discussing housing issues both before and after Yoon's appointments.

"I will work very closely with him and I'm sure he will have a very successful year on the council," Yancey

-Jon Schubin

Assistant Director of Property Management

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Police Officers (Job Code:P465-SP) The City of Cambridge and the Cambridge Police Dept. are soliciting applications for employment as a City of Cambridge Police Officer through lateral transfer. The City anticipates hiring up to 5 officers through this process. For details on eligibility requirements and how to apply, please visit our website indicated below. Rate of Pay: Full Quinn Benefits. Closing Date: 5:00pm on 02/28/06

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For detailed information on how to apply for these positions and others, please visit our website www.cambridgema.gov and click on 'Jobs.' We are an AA/EEO Employer.

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Apply before February 22, 2006 to: Executive Assistant Search Committee, ESR, 23 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Fax: 617-864-5164; email: educators@esrnational.org

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F/T TENURE TRACK NURSE EDUCATION FACULIY - Medicai/Surgical, Maternai/ **Child, and Pediatric Nursing**

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- · Proven ability to work effectively with a diverse faculty, staff and student
- Community college teaching experience preferred

 Salary: Up to \$65,000.00, depending on qualifications and experience

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BSN and a minimum of five years of recent clinical experience required;
 Master's degree in Nursing preferred

Current licensure or eligibility as a Registered Nurse in Massachusetts

• Proven ability to work effectively with a diverse faculty, staff and student

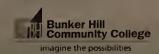
Community college teaching experience preferred

Salary: \$45.00 per clinical hour

The review of applications will begin immediately and continue until all positions have been filled.

To apply in confidence, candidates should send a resume and a letter addressing the specific position responsibilities, qualifications, and reasons for applying, a copy of transcripts (unofficial is acceptable), and a list of three references including name, address, telephone, fax and e-mail, to: Molly B. Ambrose, Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations, Bunker Hill Community College, 250 New Rutherford Avenue, Boston, MA 02129-2925; E-mail: bhccresumes@bhcc.mass.edu; Fax: (617) 228-3328.

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Health Briefs

Chinese with Diabetes Need More Than Translation

It's not enough to have translators available in doctors' offices for Chinesespeaking immigrants who need to better control their diabetes. Two other factors are essential: patient-education materials written in Chinese and entire staffs who are thoroughly knowledgeable in the cultural issues that hinder diabetes care. So report William Hsu, MD, and colleagues at the Asian American Diabetes Initiative at the Joslin, who surveyed immigrants at community health centers in Boston, Oakland and New York. Proper food choices are key in managing diabetes; yet untrained dietitians may advise cheese, pasta or other items not typical or liked among Asians. Nurses may be unaware that Asians may not want to discuss diabetes with family or proactively seek treatment. Even education materials translated from English may need to be culturally tailored. Though Asian Americans are less likely to be overweight, they have at least a 50% greater risk of developing diabetes 2 and pre-diabetes than do Caucasian Americans. Stroke and kidney disease in particular are complications of poorlycontrolled diabetes in Asian Americans.

Americans.
This research is in "Diabetes Care," Feb. 2006.

Women's Heart Disease Not Always Detected

Coronary angiographies can detect substantial buildups of plaque in the major arteries - great for men - but up to 3 million women may have blockages in smaller blood vessels of the heart, a condition called coronary microvascular syndrome that angiographies do not detect. These women may be at increased risks of heart attacks and even death. Moreover, a majority of women who had angiograms were given the all-clear, yet they continued to have symptoms, more testing, hospitalizations, and declining quality of life. Such were the findings of the government-sponsored WISE (Women's Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation) Study. Ischemic heart disease, in which oxygen flow is blocked, is the #1 killer of women of all ages. Women who have stable chest pain (angina) are less likely than men to be referred for diagnostic tests or receive treatment, reports "Circulation," a journal of the American Heart Assn.

The above research is in "Journal of the American." College of Cardiology" supplement, Feb. 6, 2006; "Circulation," Jan. 31, 2006; and press material from the National Meant Large and

and press material from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Jan. 31, 2006.

Curry a Future Treatment for Prostate Cancer?

The curry spice called turmeric, along with the PEITC substance in many vegetables, may one day hold promise as a prevention or treatment for prostate cancer. Tin Oo Khor and colleagues at Rutgers Univ. found in mice that injections of turmeric, especially combined with PEITC, significantly reduced growths of prostate cancer cells. PEITC, or phenethyl isothiocyanate, occurs naturally and abundantly in a group of vegetables that includes watercress, cabbage, winter cress, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kale, cauliflower, kohlrabi and turnips. In India, where consumption of vegetables is relatively high, the incidence of prostate cancer is low. In the U.S., it is the second leading cause of cancer death, with a half-million new cases each year. Its incidence and mortality have not dropped in past decades, despite considerable resources devoted to treatment, because advanced prostate cancer is barely responsive even to high concentrations of chemo- or radiotherapy. The study is in "Cancer Research," Jan. 15, 2006.

Compiled and written by M. Thang. This article was funded by the Asian Health Initiative of Tufts-New England Medical Center.



FINANCIAL HEALTH TIP



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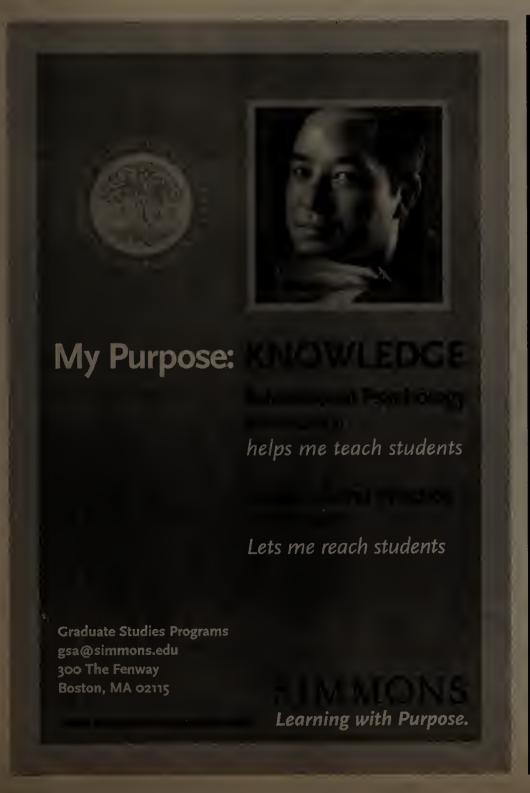
Michael Tow is president and founder of New Boston Financial. His background in personal finance includes more than 10 years of managing investments for individuals, businesses, and organizations.

He can be reached at (617) 734-4400 or mtow@newbostonfinancial.com.



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Armed and dangerously cool: Richie Jen plays Yuen in "Breaking News"

"Breaking News": A Thriller With Bangs and Fizzles

By Adam Smith

The Museum of Fine Arts is known for, well, its fine arts.

That's why Johnnie To's Cantonese-language thriller, "Breaking News," will seem a bit out of place when it screens at the museum, starting February 23.

With more bullets and blood in the first 10 minutes than most war flicks, "Breaking News" would be more at home on the "guy's cable channel," Spike TV, than a first-rate Boston museum boasting works by Monet, van Gogh, and Gauguin.

But that's not to say the thriller has no value: it does indeed thrill.

The film opens with a botched police bust that allows a small gang of criminals to flee and kill several officers, including one pudgy patrolman who is caught on news television cameras surrendering to the criminals in fear.

After footage of the pleading officer is broadcast across Hong Kong, the peninsula's police department decides to wage a war of images with the criminals.

At the direction of Inspector Rebecca Fong (Kelly Chen), the department sends out a massive number of officers to capture the criminals who have staked out in an apartment building.

Meanwhile, detective Cheung (Nick Cheung) is also pursuing the gang that is led by slick gunman Yuen (Richie Jen).

Chase scenes, gunfire, near misses and plenty of explosions follow. What the movie lacks in character development, it almost makes up for in pure action.

But this fast-paced, tightly-edited flick falters in its tendency to rely on cliché cop movie scenes and expose only a superficial side of the characters. Viewers might suspect that director To hopes a social commentary on government propaganda and mass media will shine through the gun smoke. But what viewers really get is nothing more than mirages of such a commentary. This is because viewers never get to know the characters, minus vague themes of how the criminals, especially Yuen, can treat their hostages humanely and that the police, especially Fong, can have poor motives. As a top police official says in "Breaking News": "Arresting the bandits is not

"Arresting the bandits is not our only objective. We also have to stage a good show for six million citizens."

And that, they do.

"Breaking News" is in Cantonese with English subtitles. It plays at MFA from February 23 to March 2. **GAME REVIEW**

Q: How Can You Learn More About China? A: Play "Feilong"

By Tom Grunfeld

Since time immemorial educators and parents have searched for painless and appealing ways to educate kids. To this end, people have created countless projects and publications. The new board game "Feilong" ("flying dragon") is one of the latest in that regard.

Created by the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Vermont and Mamopalire, Inc., a Vermont-based educational publisher, the game looks like any standard board game. And as with any board game, the purpose is to have fun. Unlike most other games, however, this one also aims to teach its players about China as comprehensively as possible.

The game's format is familiar in that there are playing pieces (flying dragons of different colors), a die, and cards with questions and multiple answers. Two to eight contestants can play.

The game begins in Neolithic times and ends with the People's Republic of China: a 5,000-year romp. The middle of the board has spaces for the nine major cities in China and a map showing their locations. There are also four quadrants with pictures depicting historical sites, a handful of ethnic minorities, depictions of daily life, and images pertaining to culture. The objective is to visit all the spaces and "enter China."

The heart, and singularity, of Feilong are the question cards. I particularly liked the feature of three levels of play depending on the players' expertise in matters Chinese, which should make it appealing to a broad audience. And while the questions seemed to have been carefully calibrated to different levels of knowledge, even the first level is not for rank beginners (the game is advertised for people ages 12 and older) since it presumes some knowledge of China. For example; "In the early 1990s, what was the title of proto-punk He Yong's song in which his lyrics angrily described Beijing's urban decay? A. Peonies and Dragons, B. An Ode to Confucius, or C. Garbage Dump." (If you guessed C, you're correct.)

I couldn't use this game with my class of college freshmen who are discovering China; they know abysmally little. However, it may be an interesting exercise to see how far they can get at the end of the semester in lieu of an exam. But I will strongly recommend it to my advanced students.

The cards cover a range of 32 subjects from history to government, culinary matters, art, martial arts, poetry, agriculture, health care and much more. The questions are an excellent mix of the serious and humorous and range from the obvious historical and cultural queries to the obscure, for which I must admit, even I, a historian of China for some 30 years, did not know all the answers. (Incidentally, I didn't know the answer to the question quoted above about the punk song but this may have to do with my age.) Nor did I know the answer to this one from

the land and its people will enjoy this game. I recommend it to Sinophiles of all ages and descriptions. It is an excellent teaching tool, not only for schoolchildren, but also for Chinese-Americans reconnecting with their culture and history, businesspeople and diplomats posted to China, and, as the game's authors suggest, by "legislators and political leaders." But I find that latter suggestion, however admirable, unlikely.



the highest level of play:
"Many Chinese facetiously referred to the portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Sun Zhongshan that used to be displayed in Tiananmen Square on national occasions as: A. 'The Evolution of Man' B. 'Chairman Mao's Boys,' or C. The History of

Shaving." (C, again.)
The questions cover such a wide range that they easily lend themselves to further discussions about China. Those interested in

To find out more about Feilong, go to www.bethumpd.com or call (888) 496-4094.

Tom Grunfeld is SUNY
Distinguished Teaching
Professor at Empire State
College/SUNY specializing in
the history of East and
Central Asia. He has published extensively, including
dozens of book reviews and a
handful of film reviews. This
is his first game review.

Real Shanghai Cuisine Coming to Chinatown

By Adam Smith

Real Shanghai-style food is coming to Boston's Chinatown. At least according to the new owners of the New Shanghai.

"In Chinatown, they don't have real Shanghai food," said Mei Wang, a manager and part owner of New Shanghai who took over the Hudson Street restaurant last month.

"They call it real Shanghai style, but they didn't have real Shanghai food," she said.

Wang, who also owns Shanghai Gate in Allston, said that the majority of Chinatown restaurants serve Cantonese-style

Some key differences between the two styles of foods that her patrons will notice, she said, are the cold dishes common in Shanghai-style foods, and the steamed buns used for

Some of the cold dishes on New Shanghai's new menu include: seaweed peanuts, salted pork shoulder, five-flavored beef, and jellyfish with radish.

"A lot of (non-Chinese) Americans never (would) try jellyfish," said Betty Chao, another part owner of the restaurant, "but for Chinese, it's a very nice

Shanghai-style foods include lots of stewing, braising and frying, and the food is known to Kiangsu, Chekiang and Fukien, according to globalgourmet.com.

As is common with other Chinese restaurants, Chao said that when creating the menu for New Shanghai, she and Wang had to consider what would be desirable for non-Chinese customers as well as immigrants from Shanghai.

She said the restaurant's daytime customers are usually non-Chinese businessmen and women, but many of their weekend and evening customers are Chinese.

The interior and exterior of the New Shanghai, a longtime fixture in Chinatown, have not changed under the new ownership. But Chao, who formerly had a career in biotech, said one reason she invested in the restaurant is because she wanted to change people's impression of Chinese foods.

Instead of being thought of as a quick and easy type of food, she said, "Chinese food should have a better reputation. It's kind of an art."

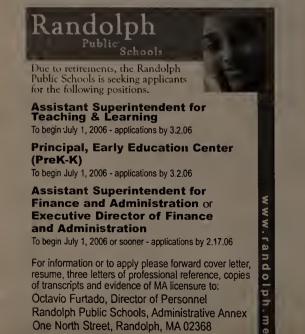


Noguchi Rocks!

When I visited the tiny town of Mure, Japan, and toured the studio of the late, internationally renowned sculptor Isamu Noguchi, I was a bit puzzled. To the untrained eye, much of the place looks like nothing more than a bunch of big rocks. But the artist was about more than stacking and carving stones.

Born in California in 1904, Noguchi is known for creating the first stage set for choreographer Martha Graham, working on fountains for Tokyo's supreme court, and designing gardens for UNESCO in Paris. Discover Noguchi and his life in Japan and the U.S. in the film "Isamu Noguchi: Stones and Paper" that will screen at the Institute of Contemporary Art on March 24, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$7. Call (617) 927-6620.

-Adam Smith



Email: ofurtado@randolph.mec.edu

The Randolph Public Schools is an AA/EOE which is committed to increasing the diversity of its staff and encourage applications from minority candidates.

Events Calendar

▶ PERFORMANCE

Chinese Folk Art Lion and Dragon Dances, Chinese YoYo, Drums or Folk Dance performances (not all may be open to public):

Sun. morning, Feb. 19: Quincy Lunar New Year **Festival**

AT: North Quincy High

Sun. afternoon, Feb. 19: St. Anthony Shrine Kids Program

AT: St. Anthony Shrine,

Wed. afternoon, March 1: AT: Rhode Island State House: Fri. night, March 10:

Weston High School Asian

AT: Weston High School www.FolkArtBoston.org (781) 608-3971

▶FILM

"Breaking News" ("Dai Si Gein") (2004) by **Jo**hnny To Hong Kong/China See review on page 8. 6:15 pm, Thu., Feb. 23 8:15 pm, Fri., Feb. 24 2:30 pm, Sat., Feb. 25

AT: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston/\$9 www.MFA.org/film

EXHIBITIONS

Carpenter Ctr. for the Visual Arts, Sert Gallery, Cambridge To April 16: "Quantum Grids: Sol LeWitt, Yayoi Kusama, and Cai Guo-Qiang"

This exhibition includes "The Century with Mushroom Clouds" by Cai Guo-Qiang and Yayoi Kusama's 1967 three-panel oil "Accreations II," which both counter the gunpowder-on-paper testament to the iconic mushroom cloud.

www.artmuseums.harvard.edu (617) 496-5331

Davis Museum and **Cultural Center** sponsor: Asian American Civic Assn. Wellesley College To May 24: "On the Edge: Contemporary Chinese Artists Encounter the West" "On the Edge" features experimental work from

the 1980s to 2004 by 12 Chinese avant-garde artists in a West-centric global art

To June 3: "Xu Bing: 'Any Opinions?"

A site-specific installation by internationally-known Xu Bing, whose works have been shown at the Smithsonian, Sackler Gallery, ICA London, Shanghai Biennial,

www.DavisMuseum.wellesley.edu (781) 283-2051

TALKS, ETC.

"Should China Revalue its Currency? Lessons from Japan" 12:30-2:00, Tue., Feb. 21 Prof. Claude Meyer, Paris I Sorbonne Univ. and Sciences Politiques 1737 Cambridge St., N262, Knafel Bldg. sponsor: Program on U.S.-Japan Relations jri@wcfia.harvard.edu

"Conflict & Development in Nepal" 12:30, Wed., Feb. 22

Shankar Sharma, vice chair, National Planning Committee, Nepal 1730 Cambridge St., CGIS sponsors: Asia Center and Global Equity Initiative (617) 496-6273

"Why the Opium War Was Not about Opium" 2:15-4:00, Fri., Feb. 24 Harry Gelber, visiting scholar, Center for **European Studies** 27 Kirkland St., Cabot British Study Group (617) 495-4303

"Auto- and Biographical in the One Hundred Poems of Weeping for my Husband (kufu shi baishou) by Bo Shaojun (d. 1626)" 4:00, Mon., Feb. 27 Wilt Idema, Harvard Univ. 2 Divinity Ave., Common

Sponsor: Fairbank Ctr. and Hvd. East Asian Languages smilack@fas.harvard.edu

E-mail listings to SAMPANnews@yahoo.co m Please include the cost, phone number and Web site for the public.

Dog Days Are Here

By Jon Schubin

Michael Luu was supposed to play the cymbals with the On Leong lion dance troupe at the Chinatown celebration of the Lunar New Year on February 5 in Boston.

But because of parking trouble, he arrived late. The troupe carried on without

So Luu joined an estimated 1,000 people who attended the festivities despite the cold wet weath-

Eight troupes and more than 200 dancers, musicians and others performed on stage at the corner of Harrison Avenue and Essex Street. The event was organized by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England and sponsored by city businesses and organizations.

The performance marked year 4703 on the Chinese calendar, the Year of the Dog. Lunar or Chinese New Year was Jan. 29.

Mayor Thomas Menino wished the crowd "kung hei fat choi," or "happy new year" in Cantonese.

One of the performers

was the Gund Kwok Asian Women's Lion Dance Troupe, an all-female group. The team carried a banner that read in Chinese, "Women have hidden powers and can be just as good

Preparation for lion dances must be carefully coordinated because several people must work together to give the impression of one animal. Troupe member Angela Pierce said it took weels of practices to prepare the team for the event.

"You have to be very coordinated; otherwise, it won't look good," troupe member Sun-King Chan

After their stage performances, the troupes made visits to businesses in Chinatown, who rewarded the "lions" with red moneyfilled envelopes.

The imminent birth of her baby did not prevent pregnant Yi Luo from witnessing her husband's performance with the Wu Qing Troupe. She was going to the hospital on Monday to give birth.

"Tomorrow the doctor will deliver the baby dog," she said.

Ask the Culture Connector™ ...

... your guide to cultural advice and lifestyle

Q. I went to the funeral of someone whose family is Chinese. At the funeral, the family passed out coins in envelopes and candy to the guests. I had no idea what I was supposed to do with them. Can you tell me? And what do the candy and coins symbolize?

A. According to funeral directors Tak Chiu Joseph Yeung and Susan Wong Tapia - of J.S. Waterman & Sons and Wing Fook Funeral Home in Boston, respectively - you should eat the candy and discard the envelope at the wake or before you get home. Do not bring the "gut yee" envelope home with you! It is bad luck - death will follow you if you take the envelope home. Wong Tapia says to eat the candy there. If you can't have sweets, it's okay to take just a few licks and discreetly discard

You should spend the coin before you get home. Sometimes funeral guests will pool their quarters or coins together and buy a lottery ticket on the way home, perhaps adding some of their own money for the purchase, says Mr. Yeung.

As for the symbolism, the answers were less uniform, but all are rooted in oral tradition. Ms. Wong Tapia asked the elders at Wing Fook, who said the candy is "to sweeten the sorrow of one's heart and mind due to the loss of the loved one. The coin is to wish you prosperity for having taken time out of your busy schedule to pay respect to the family and their loved one."

Mr. Yeung of Waterman & Sons said the candy "symbolizes the passing of a person who lived a sweet life." The

candy and coin together are to remember the deceased "as a sweet person who lived a good and happy life." In the old days in China, peanuts ("fah sang") were given to be reseeded after a person passed on to promote reincarnation, a traditional Chinese belief. Today in the U.S., the coin

(quarter) has replaced the peanut to remember the

Note that other Asian cultures may have similar traditions with candy and coins at funerals, but the gut yee envelope is more particular to the

Got a question for the Culture ConnectorTM? Email it to her at CultureConnector@yahoo.c om . In the next issue, find out where in the Boston area you can buy Chinese magazines.

ON THE EDGE

CONTEMPORARY CHINESE ARTISTS ENCOUNTER THE WEST February 15 - May 24

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www.bhcc.mass.edu

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) is a multi-campus urban institution in Boston with a second campus in Chelsea and five additional satellite sites. The College is one of the most diverse and cosmopolitan in New England with 60 percent students of color and an international population representing 92 countries. This semester, more than 7900 credit students are enrolled in day, evening, weekend and distance-learning courses in 66 degree and certificate programs.

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Reporting to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, the Director of Admissions is responsible for the management and overall performance of the admissions team. The Director will develop and implement a student recruitment plan with emphasis on local high schools; oversee preadmission counseling; plan and participate in off-campus recruitment events and coordinate and oversee the college's scholarship program. The Director will also oversee the implementation and upgrade of recruitment-related technologies, including automating the transfer credit evaluation processes

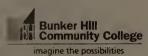
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For more information: call **603.447.4333** or email Maurice Laroche **mlaroche@boothcreek.com**

ion, go le: Loonmtn.com or Waterville.com or Cranmore.com

Chinatown Celebrates New Year

By Adam Smith

There's no better way to help immigrants than to help them learn English, said celebrity chef Ming Tsai at the Asian American Civic Association's annual gala on February 9.

When they are given the opportunity to learn English and find jobs, he said: "these people will give back and make America a better place."

Tsai was the honorary chair of the gala, a fundraiser for AACA, which publishes the Sampan newspaper and provides English and job-skills training courses at low or no cost.

Some 800 people -including honorary chair
Mayor Thomas M. Menino
and sports-talk radio personality Eddie Andelman -attended the event held at

the Wang Center.

Guests were entertained by the pounding beats of Tsuji Daiko, a Japanese drumming duo; the flying swords, sticks and kicks of the Wah Lum Kung Fu Athletic Association; and the jazz tunes of Zhang Le.

The AACA will use money from the event earned through ticket sales, donations and auctions to help pay for the association's planned new building at 87 Tyler St. in Chinatown. AACA plans to share the building with the Kwong Kow Chinese School; both groups are conducting separate fundraisers for the new building that could cost up to \$11.5 million.

Tsai, who showed support for the AACA's initiative, was not all serious that evening. Joking, he announced that "in China,



Traditional Chinese Dance
Troupe

Photo by Shinobu Ando

your not supposed to eat the animal of the year." So, he said, no dog this year.

Malden Marks Year of the Dog

By Adam Smith

As Malden's Asian population has grown, its annual Chinese New Year celebration has thrived.

This year's event marking the Year of the Dog attracted an estimated 500 people to the BeeBe School on February 4 and entertained with Chinese drum and dance performances, as well as chorus singing and lion dances.

"It's a pretty good (turnout)," said Zenobia Lai, spokesperson for the cele-

Said Mayor Richard C.

Howard, who had a frontrow seat to the performances: "This is a very wellestablished tradition. This is something our community at large looks forward to."

Howard, who has been mayor of the city for the past decade, said he's been to nine of the 10 New Year's celebrations that are "met with open arms by the community."

Asian Spectrum, Inc., a Malden-based, Cantoneselanguage televison show broadcast on Malden Access Channel 3, presented the event, which included performances by Wah Lum Kung Fu, the Boston Chinese Dulcimer Ensemble, and the Canton Musical Association.

Malden's Asian
American population nearly tripled from 1990 to 2000, when it reached 14.5% of Malden's total population of 56,340. According to the U.S. Census, the city that was once populated with Irish and Italian Americans has become more diverse.

"If you look at our graduating class of seniors," said Howard, "there're usually (students from) about 60 different countries."











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華美福利會於2月9 日於王安戲院舉行中國農曆 慶典暨新大樓籌款晚會,許 多波士頓地區的市政官員及 名人政要皆紛紛出席。據主 辦單位統計當晚約有850名 貴賓參與。慶典中有舞龍舞 獅及多項亞裔民俗表演。

晚會在華林派舞館的舞龍舞 獅中拉開序幕。榮譽嘉賓 Blue Ginger 餐廳老闆兼大 廚蔡明昊(Ming Tsai)擔任大 會主持人,WCNB 第五電視 頻道新聞主播 Susan Wornick 爲大會司儀。

波士頓市長曼寧諾、昆 士市長費蘭及首位亞裔市議 員尹長賢皆出席晚會,向大 家拜年。曼寧諾在治致詞中 稱讚華美福利會爲新移民提 供多元服務,以幫助這些新 移民達到生活及經濟自主的 目標,實爲亞裔移民的溫暖 大家庭。



華林派舞館的舞龍

右圖:(由左至右) 華美福利 會主席陳美霞,波士頓市長 曼寧諾,昆士市長費蘭及華 美福利會行政主任李秋明。 (圖由劍僑攝影公司提供)

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中國駐紐約總領事館官 員將於2月19日赴波士頓 受理證件申請,爲廣大各界 人士服務。當天現場將接受 護照、簽証、公證、認證等申

中領館官員在波士頓辦 公的地點爲亞文中心,368 West Cummings Park, Woburn MA 01801.

查詢電話爲:1 (781) 933-1666。受理的證件申請 爲:中國護照延期、加注申 請、合法入境者換發護照 [申請、赴華簽証(包括六個 月內一次入境簽証)、公證、 任證申請。

申請人需先瀏覽中領 館網站,了解自己需要辦理 的證件要求,並按照須知準 備好有關證件或復印文件, 有關申請表格可以在網站 上下載。

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中領館只收取現金支 票及現金,同類申請可用一 張現金支票,支票抬頭寫: Chinese Consulate General in New York.

如證件申請在十五日內未 得到回復,可電:(212) 868-2074。

·駐波士頓台北經濟文化 辦事處宣布,本月20日(星

期一)美國的總統紀 念日,該處領務部門 當日將停止對外開 放。若有緊急事件,

可撥(617)650-9252,聯絡 該處人員。

·因本月 12 日大風雪取消的 文協皮影戲表演及講座活 動將延至本月25日(星期 六)舉行。10時至11時爲傳 統皮影戲「鶴與烏龜」、「孫 悟空」表演,11時至12時是 專爲僑校教師和成人愛好 者舉辦的「皮影戲製作操 作」講座。意者可向文協查 詢報名,電話(617)332-0377

•大陳同鄉會定於本月19日 (星期日) 晚間 11 時 30 分, 假華埠漁村大酒樓舉行第 十八屆春節聯歡晚會,同時 慶祝大陳同鄉遷台 51 周

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該會會長鮑士玉表 示,今年春宴活動訂座辦法 將與往年不同,爲以訂桌優 先, 每席 250 元, 每人 25 元。聯絡電話:同鄉會(617) 542-5840,會長鮑士玉(603) 744-5180, 吳繼福(207) 939-3862, 周仙梅(617) 842-6540。

·波士頓中華書法會、波士

頓僑教中心日前假僑教中 心聯合主辦「新春書畫展」 開幕典禮,百多位愛好書畫 文人雅士出席盛典,作品豐 富,為華埠新春慶祝活動系 列增添書畫文藝氣氛。

中華書法會會長林卓培 說,今年新年展覽有多項特 色,參展的16位藝術好手共 展出70幅作品。其中九幅 是梅宇國書法班和其國畫 班學生的作品,也是他們近 兩年學習成果展和首次師 生聯展。他指出,該班學習 書書學員大多數是年長者, 習書畫充實了老人家健康 生活,也增進了生活樂趣。

駐波士頓台北經濟文 化辦事處處長楊國棟盛讚 該會在海外推廣發揚中華 文化努力的成果,並熱心開 班授課,和舉辦師生作品聯 展,他指出這是對學生一種 鼓勵。他期勉該會繼續努 力,爲華埠文化氣質添光。

參展多幅書法作品的 該會資深成員書法家伍育 俊,展示於新年完成的楷書 三百多字,妙錄明朝劉伯溫 留下的「燒餅歌」、「太白山 碑記」新作品、和篆書百福 圖。該新春書畫展將展至25

·美洲銀行 - 現已成爲聯合 銀行的職員舉辦精明理財 系列講座。題目爲:2005年 報稅需知及退休計劃。日期 爲 2006 年 2 月 22 日 (星期 三),時間:下午5時至6 時。地點爲波士頓中國城分 行。講員爲謝自強會計師。 語言:英文及中文。

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閒話美華—一個美華的隨意回恩 加華大贏家

久的朋友,也沒有永久的敵 人。且一看目前德國與其鄰 國的關係;又請看日本和美 國像情侶的來往。這些都是 日前世界上的國際秩序。

又有人說,一個國際的 內部政治裡,尤其是西方式 的多黨民主國家裡——沒 有能長期掌權的政黨;也沒 有長期在長期在野的政 黨。且一看美國的政治歷 史;也請一看今年加拿大的 大選。經十三年到掌政,加 拿大的白由黨競選失敗下 台。有人評論說,主要原因 是:過長的在朝會產生很多 不良的現象: 例如貪污腐 化,與民脫節,忽視民意等 等。無論怎樣,我想有規律 的更替確實是政治的新陳 代謝,會帶來新力量利新意 念。加拿大這個團體好像邁 進了現代文則的一大步。

在保羅·馬丁領導下 到自由黨政府今年落選下 台,代之而起的保守黨在史 堤蘇·哈帕的領導下組成新 政府, 並推行新的治國綱 領。無疑會是很很大的變 天,但望通是普通的好轉。 在我這個美華觀點看,我喜 歡這些未來的轉變是會對

有人說,國際問沒有永 加華社區多方面的有利增 長。我們美華對這些增長虛 心啓發性的觀看:如果我們 作適當的團結和努力,一定 可以爭取到问等的勝利。

> 首先: 我在去年十二月 十六日的栖報, 曾經報導 BC 省市選的情況、認爲加 華的政治已逐漸成熟,公民 責任的概念漸漸在民眾的 意識中滋長,普遍的傳統對 政治的恐懼心理日漸縮 退。很多移民和他們的土生 子女都無懼地以主流一樣 的態度加入政選活動,這種 參與已變得相當自然:一如 在即日遊行中看见紅衣騎 警一樣的自然。

> 第二:加拿大華裔一百 萬人,大選中有國會候選人 十九人,代表所有主流政 黨,其中五人勝利入選,這 是真可觀的成績。有趣的 是,其中一位名趙秀娟候選 者, 竞然代表傳統上? 裔專 層的魅人黨,其他得勝者均 層不同的黨籍,而且十九名 候選人均分佈於加國各地: 從東部的魁北克至西部的 英屬哥倫比亞。可以說他們 视野已大大放廣,雞蛋都放 在多籃中,尋求多元選?

出黨觀念, 白由黨的陳卓 愉, 退离黛對人頭稅的不道 歉不賠償主張,一問主持對 華裔社群爭取正義而得 勝。這次的大選真可說加華 廣播種, 直往廣收成的方向 邁進,爲全民爭取正義利福 利:固有的華人地方主義已 開始退失,這是社群成熟的

第三:假如讀者對北美 華裔歷史有點認識的話,可 以确認初期白種人盡了很 大的力度去排擠外來的中 國移民,其中一種很好也好 像很合法的途徑是加徵" 人頭稅",所有入境的華民 均需先交人頭稅,才能岸, 加州政府因此也得到一筆 資金。當時美加之間有很多 互通的消息, 互相的效仿, 因此加國也開始徵收人頭 稅,只單獨適川於華民,在 過去的一百多年中,這可以 說是加華心肺中的績刺,久 久無法拔出,長期穩痛。從 十九世紀末至二十世紀初, 入境的華民必須交繳每人 五十元的人頭稅(後來更逐 步境至五百元)。這種稅額 當時等於每人兩年的工資 收入。從 1885 年至 1923 年 再者他們都開始不買 期間,入境華民共計有

81000人, 所負出的總稅收 約 C#23000000, 這等於今天 的十億加元。

更是雪上加霜的是,在 1923 年加國完全禁止華人 進境, 此法至 1947 年方才 廢除,這是方平詳戰爭結束 後的兩年。而在二戰中,中 國和美加均是一同對德日 作戰的盟友,很多加籍華裔 也和其他加民一樣在軍隊 服役,并戰死沙場。這些歷 史上對華民的歧視和侮辱, 就是加華心肺中的績刺,穩 穩作痛了大半個世紀。所以 爲了解脫這個心結,加華趁 這次的大選機會作一大聲 的要求,争取公道,而且初 步成績可說甚佳。

在競選期中,加華們大 力提議所有的候選人答應 在當選後,馬上進行立法程 序由政府向華裔社會道歉, 并對受害者作金錢賠款, 估 計目前仍尙生存的受害者 有 250 人。

如有餘款可用於加華 社區的福利工作。加國自由 黨可能不完全理解這則加 華肺腑之痛,已在先宣傳不 贊成道歉利賠償之舉,因此 這個加華的要求,不但在華 人社群中產生很大的不歡, 而且在主流社區也變成全 國的熱門言論,在公關方面 使加華的廣告效益大增。很 多個加華和非加華候選人 - 包括保守黨的哈帕黨魁 -

均先後推動加華的要求;而 白由黨一再顯現其反亞裔 的色彩和不理民眾意念,因 此失去了民眾支持。一月二 十六日那天,哈帕趁向華人 视賀新春之際,再次確認對 加華爭回公道的意願。

你或會問:這次加國大 選的意義何在? 對我坐在國 界之南這個美華而言 -- 或 對很多非美華也一樣 -- 我 不得不歡呼這場球賽的好 結果。自由黨錯認了加華一 向對自由黨的慣性支持 -如多年來美華曾對民主黨 的倾向一樣 -- 在這個戰術 方面脫了一節。我們旁觀者 只有像老實的俄國老農人 一樣嘆息說:"哎,這些時 勢,已經大不如前了!"十 三年的當政實在太長了點, 當政者都變得太大意,無心 更進一步的檢討和研究。但 意想不到的是民意如此重 要, 加華人口只佔全國的 百分之三或四, 而且一向 以來華人對政治也欠關 心。但這次人頭稅之役,加 華們就像二戰後的猶太民 族一樣疾呼:"不公之事 永不許重來"

這次加華們很正確且 很智慧地選擇了合情合理 的說項和大社會的公議 的選民們而得到勝利。在 另一方,保守黨諸領導人, 經過十三年在野的痛苦,

最後也明白民意的力量,不 諭此民意是一個小數民族 所發起,公義就是公義,不 分種族,宗教,膚色黨派。因 此這次大選雖然是保守黨 的勝利,但實際上加華爲最 大的勝者,而且是在移殖北 美這 125 年來最大的勝 利。他們似乎已達到某程度 的成熟, 而且也選完了方 向,邁向完美前進。加拿大 這個國家也變得比以前更 文明了,應受世人贊賞。坐 在美加國界以南的我們,真 應該向加華取真經,有一天 可能我們也要發點正義的 脾氣, 爭取久缺了的公道, 畢竟一百多年前,我們也曾 有问樣的人頭稅, 问樣的民 族痛苦, 同樣的野蠻待遇。 你認爲如何?上述有否使你 情意上發點燒呢? 但願如

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- (1)將鯽魚去內臟、去鱗,洗淨, 蔥切絲,薑切末。
- (2)將油鍋燒熱,鯽魚下鍋炸至 微焦黄,加人蔥、薑、鹽、胡椒粉 及水,稍待片刻。
- (3) 投人枸杞子再悶燒 10分 鐘,加人味精即可食。

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儘管"投票所外民調" 破天荒的以多種語言進行 並且只瞄准亞裔群體,該民 意調查還是顯示出它在採 樣規模和地域分布上的缺 陷: 只有波士頓華埠、 Dorchester 和 Lowell 的投 票所中總共不到三百名人 員義務參加了該調查。

在2005年選舉過 程中,被調問人員大部分是 華裔和柬埔寨後裔,同時還 有少數的越南裔美國人。

以下是一些該民調的重要 發現,摘自由"亞裔美國人 合法抗辯及教育基金會" (Asian American Legal

Defense and Education Fund)進行的票檢分析結

大部分被调問人員為註册 的民主兼人士

全體被調問人員的4 0%爲註冊民主黨人士,只 有十分之一是共和黨人 士。在華裔和柬埔寨裔的被 調問人員中,註冊爲民主黨 黨員的人士壓倒多數,而只 占該民調數量一小部分份 額的越南裔情況則正好相 反,他們中的大多爲注冊共 和黨人士。

在全部被調問人員中,約4 6%的人爲無黨派人士。

評總統、選委員,"投票 并多人首次参與投票選舉

三分之一的柬埔寨 裔,五分之一的華裔和6% 的越南裔表示2005年 的選舉是他們首次參與的

大部分人英語能力蘇弱

約60%的被調問人 員覺得自己的英語水平有 限,只有不到10%的人表 示英語是自己的母語。越南 裔中有高達79%的人袒 露自己的英語水平不 夠---這個比例突現出越 南裔是各少數族裔中講英 語最困難的群體。超過三分 之一的全體被調問人員表 示希望在選舉中能夠有翻 譯的幫助,或提供本民族語 言的相關材料。

偏爱 Romney

大多數華埠和 Dorchester 的被調問人員 贊揚政客 Mitt Romney 的政 績,同時對布殊總統評價消 極(儘管不是布殊總統的選 舉年,被調問人員的有關評 論仍記入其中)。

關於本地的政治情況, 在唐人街和 Dorchester,波 士頓市長 Thomas M. Menino 贏得多數亞裔青睞,而候選 人 Marura Hennigan 獲票不 多。首位入選波士頓市政委 員會的亞裔人士尹長賢仍 然是亞裔群體投票市政委 員會成員的首選。身隨其後 的是 Felix

Arroyo 和排名第三的 Michael Flaherty.

(原文:史亞畬, 编辑:許可可)

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5 少:

1.「少」吃加工食品如火腿、 香腸及成分標示不明的食

- 2.「少」吃油炸、火烤、煙燻、 醃漬類食物。
- 3.「少」喝含糖、酒精類飲料 及甜點。若一定要喝,就喝 低脂牛奶或綠茶。
- 4.「少」喝濃湯,改以清湯,且

避免用湯汁泡飯。

5.「少」沾醬料,生菜沙拉的 沙拉醬熱量高、火鍋的沙茶 醬鈉含量多,都建議少吃。

1.一定「要」吃早餐。哈佛大 學針對 2,831 位受試者調查 發現, 每天吃早餐的有 44% 體重正常,41%沒有發 生胰島素抗阻。

2. 「要」維持少量多餐。在早 餐後每三小時進食一次,可 使血糖濃度維持穩定。 最

好每餐只吃七分

3. 「要」多吃蔬 果。蔬菜以節令時蔬最佳, 多吃增加飽足感,且可將湯 汁瀝乾或用 白開水濾過,可 減少油脂的攝取: 水果也以 新鮮水果最好。

- 4.「要」多選清蒸、燉煮或涼 拌的食物,如清蒸魚比糖醋 魚來得好。
- 5. 若非參加應酬不可,「要」 吃點東西如蘋果、雜糧餅乾 或麵包墊胃。

與漢米頓公司達成共識 平價超市可以留下了!

一年半以前,位於南端 的平價超市擔心因和房屋 開發商的競爭失敗,而失去 長期租貲合同。如今平價超 市與其租主漢米頓公司 (The Hamilton Co. Inc.)經 過一年多的協商,終於在1 月23日達成協議。波士頓 重建局宣布,漢米頓公司同 意保留平價超市現在所使 用的建築物,延長平價超市 的租約,並同意重新裝修平 價超市所在大樓的外部。

漢米頓公司曾在 2004 年 I0 月向波士頓重建局提 出改建南岸地區(South End) 靠近波士頓華埠區域 的計畫。漢米頓公司提出的 [TheHamilton Tower Gate] 計畫,將在華盛頓街、東百

聯合銀行

克利街 (East Berkeley Street) 及部份夏利臣街 (Har-rison Street) 邊建造 兩棟公寓大樓。計畫拆毀平 價超市所在建築物,遷移平 價超市。

該計畫一提出就遭到 平價超市的員工(約90 名)、股東和社區人士的反

在華埠社區和波士頓 市官員的聲援下,漢米頓公 司和平價超市經過一年的 談判達成協議,雙方同意續 簽租約,漢米頓公司將邀請 南岸的建築設計公司 David Hacin & Associ-ates,負責 對平價超市所在的大樓進 行外部裝修設計。

漢米頓公司還將負責

擴展大樓,以容納 另一家新商戶入 租。目前該大樓中 現有商戶除平價超 市外,還包括 Empire Loan 和

Sid's Smoke Shop 兩家商 店。根據協定,平價超市將 負責店內內部裝修,增設節 能冷櫃,將店面擴展到東百 克利街,並增加新的商店入

同時,平價超市需要付 更多的租金。平價超市的商 務顧問陳國華表示,「平價 超市的年租金從原先的四 十萬,增加20%。但漢米頓 公司將提供額外的租地空 間及租金折扣。所以實踐的 增長率是 5%到 10%。」

陳國華對漢米頓公司 放棄拆遷計畫表示滿意。他 說,平價超市在該地點已經 營了 16 年, 員工有 70 多 人。如果真的被拆毀,所有

員工將陷入失業困境。

漢米頓公司計畫提出 之後,平價超市和華埠社區 曾向市長曼寧諾和波士頓 重建局致信,反對通過該計 畫。陳國華表示,漢米頓公 司此次已經同意與平價超 市續簽20年的租約,協定 的達成獲得華埠/南灣社 區議會、華人前進會、亞美 社區發展協會等社區團體, 以及波士頓市長曼寧諾、波 士頓重建局局長馬隆尼 (Mark Maloney)和市議員亞 若佑、特納等多方支持。

波士頓市長曼寧諾表 示,新改造計畫將爲雙方和 整個社區帶來更多益處,美 化環境會給平價超市吸引 顧客,使平價超市爲社區提 供更多工作機會。

陳國華表示,平價超市 將繼續保持長期以來的市 場功能和職業提供機會,保 證華人在本地的活躍。



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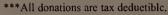
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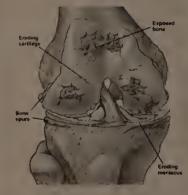
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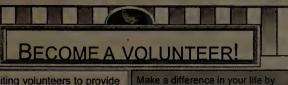
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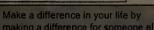
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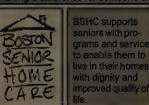


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尹常賢任房屋改革委員會主席 希望讓《社區穩定房租條款》永遠有效

尹常賢總是擺 脫不了 提升住屋的使 命。 作爲前 房屋改革鼓吹者, 尹1月 被任命爲房屋改革主席。 作爲主席,第一次由亞 裔參加波士頓市務委員 會,他將圍繞由市務委員提 交給房屋改革委員會的提案 舉行聽證會。房改委員也 有權針對任何 他認爲相關 的問題舉行聽證會。

尹很高興擔任房屋改革 委員會主席。 這很符合我 的 背景和專業經歷 , 他說 房改是波士頓和華埠所 面臨的重大課題之一。尹之 前的工作 經歷圍繞著波士 頓的房建, 這包括在亞美社 區發展協會和社區建造者公 司上班, 這兩個組織都致 力於房屋廉價和經濟發展 他也在華埠和大波士頓 地區管理幾個工程。他在 約翰甘迺迪 政府學院讀碩 士,研究方向就是社區經濟 發展。

亞美社區發展協會的執 行董事劉繼明說,「尹做這 個工作 真是再合適不過了, 亞美社區發展協會盼 望將 來 和他繼續合作。 我們在 想如何才能確信我們帶進華 埠的資源不再被濫用。 」 尹說,「說到波士頓房屋問 題的時候,我會實話實說。 我們需要獎勵廉價房屋 製 造商, 但也必須向他們提 出要求。」尹繼續,「我們必 須提出一些基本要求 。 」

這些觀點都反映在尹的 聲明當中,他說市政府應爲 中產階級增加購房機會。 最優先 之一將是再實行穩 定房租的法律。

提案《社匠穩 定房租草案》 來保護房客免 於房租大幅增 長的威 脅

尹計劃和社 區積極分子和發 展商一起,起草 一個議案來保護 房客免於房租大 幅增長的威脅, 同時又可以被房 主接受。 這個提

案名稱是〈社區穩定房 租草案》, 2004年12月被 市議會8對5否決。相似 的草案 2002 年被拒絕過。 那麼已經兩次都失 敗了,如 果第三次也失敗那將會是悲 劇。尹也希望能延長房屋 開發合同要求房主爲中產階 級及以下居民提供住房。 七十年代 和八十年代都有 這些條款, 但只是房屋建 成後的 20 年到 25 年有效 。 尹想讓它永遠 有效 。 CHARLES YANCEY 議員 支持這個想法。他是 2003年至2005年的房委 會主席。 只是已經付了抵 押款並不能 解除房主建 造廉價房屋 的責任。尹 說他將和他 的議員同事

們密切合作來起草房屋政策 。因爲這經常涉及到波士 頓市,麻州和聯邦規定, 房屋政策經常被委員會主席 引用用來和其他委員會溝通 包括政府間的事務 或操作



尹常賢任房屋改革委員會主席。

委員會。

尹同時也被任命爲飢 餓及無家可歸者委員會主 席, 也將擔任幾個別的委 員會委員,包括教育、人權 和青年事務。 YANCEY 預言尹在委員會的第一年 將是有作 爲的一年 。 倆人 已經交換了意見,討論了在 尹的任命前後的房屋政 策 。「我將和他密切合作,我 確信,他將會在委員會裡大 有作爲!」 YANCEY 以上

(作者: ON SCHUBIN 编辑:宋查理)

四級生化實驗室終被聯邦政府批準

有些激進分子稱計劃中 病毒有被恐怖分子製作成危 生部門的開工令。 BUMC 的這個實驗室爲恐怖實驗室 。同時擁護建實驗室的人 則稱之爲安全實驗室。該 工程的聯邦投資者說其用途 在於生化防禦研究。

該實驗室將位於波士頓 大學醫療中心, 要研究世界 上最致命的病毒。因爲這些

險武器的危機。

在本月上旬此生化實驗 室的興建計劃獲得聯邦政府 批准。僅管社區及其他組 織反對,但幾個公共事務官 員,包括市長 THOMAS M. MENINO 支持, 2004 年該 實驗室很容易的通過了評估

計 劃興建生化防禦實驗室, 本月開工,需要差不多兩年 半完工,位置在南端,聚挨

(作者: ADAM SMITH 编 肄:宋查理)

别於尋常充滿懸念 波士頓美術館上映《大事件》

波士頓美術館因其藝術 品而聞名。這也是爲什麼在 美術館上映杜琪峰導演的粤 語驚險片《大事件》顯得那麼 的別於尋常。

裏的槍擊和血腥場面比一般 戰爭影片還多, 比起在展示 莫奈、凡高以及高崗等藝術 家作品的一流博物館裏放 映, 這部片子似乎更適合在 Spike 電視臺的 "男性有線 頻道"播放。

雖然如此,這並不意味 該片一無所值: 它確實還是 很扣人心弦的。

電影的開頭是一群犯罪 團夥從一名笨手笨腳的警察 手上逃脫, 並殺害了一名被 電視鏡頭拍攝到的因害怕而 向匪徒投降的矮胖警察和其 他幾名警官。故事便由此展

在警察向匪徒投降的電視畫 面在香港公開後,港島警署 決定大力開展一輪繳匪行動 以挽回顏面並重塑警察形 象。在警官 Rebecca (陳慧 (大事件) 開場的十分鐘 琳飾)的指導下,警署派出大 量警員去緝捕處於媒體監控 狀態下的公寓內的匪徒。同 時,重案組張督察(張家輝 飾) 也在調查以老辣槍手元 (任賢齊飾) 爲首的匪徒組

追蹤場面、交火場面、幾 欲得手卻失之交臂的情節再 加上極多的爆炸場景,幾乎 彌補了影片人物特點不足的

但是這部快節奏的影片 的情節老套,而且只描繪了 人物特性的一個小側面。觀? 也許會猜想,似乎杜導演的 意圖是在於把政府的宣傳從 社會的角度做一個解釋,並

在槍林彈雨中寄希望於 大眾媒體,期望它們能起 到不凡的作用,但除此以 外,就不會再有其他收穫

了。這是因爲導演並沒有 深入刻畫片中的人物,影片 沒有交代清楚爲什麼匪徒 們,特別是元,能那爲人道地 對待人質,以及爲什麼以 Rebecca 爲代表的警員們那 麼沒有幹勁。正如影片 (大事 件》中一位最高警官說的:我 們的目的不僅僅是要逮捕匪 徒, 我們還要讓六百萬市民 看一場好戲。

而事實上,他們也只做到了 這一點。 (编译 楊陽)

編者按: (大事件) 全片爲粤 語對話附有英文字幕。將于 周四(二月二十三日)晚6: 15,周五(二月二十四日)晚 8:15,周六(二月二十五日) 下午2:30,周三(三月一日) 晚 8:15 以及周四(三月二 日)下午2:30在藝術博物館 (MFA) 上映。

TAUNTON AFFORDABLE **HOUSING LOTTERY April 5th, 2006**

25 NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES \$190,000

3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bathrooms single-family detached units in the new 99-unit development called The Settlement

Applications and Information available for QUALIFIED Households at The Offices of the Planning Board at the Taunton City Hall Annex on 15 Summer St. and The Taunton Public Library

The Maximum Income Limits for Households are as follows:

3 Person - \$ 59,550 4 Person - \$ 66,150 5 Person - \$ 71,450 6 Person - \$ 76,750

The affordable homes will be made available to households of 3 or more persons before being made available to smaller households.

The Homes will first be ready for occupancy beginning in May.

A PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP will be held on March 1st, 2006 at

The Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers at Taunton City Hall, 15 Summer St., Taunton MA at 7:00 PM

> Completed Applications must be received by 5:00 pm on March 29th, 2006



For Questions Call (617) 876-5919 And Leave A Message.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING **LOTTERY**

Concord, MA May 8th, 2006

16 NEW AFFORDABLE ONE AND TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS AT

Warner Woods 223 and 247 Lawsbrook Road in West Concord

Rents are: \$751 (1-Bedroom) and \$898 (2-Bedroom)

These rents include all utilities except for electricity These rents ONLY change on applicant's income IF they are a housing voucher holder; Otherwise the applicant is responsible for full payment of rent.

> Applications and Information available for QUALFIFIED Households at The Office of the Town Clerk in the Concord Town Hall (22 Monument Square),

The Offices of the Concord Town Planner (141 Keyes Rd.) and The Concord Free Public Library (129 Main St.) The Income Limits for Households are as follows:

1 Person - \$ 28,950 2 Person - \$ 33,100 3 Person - \$ 37,200 4 Person - \$ 41,350

A PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP will be held on March 29th, 2006 at 7:00 in the First Floor Meeting Room on 141 Keyes Rd., Concord, MA

The Deadline for Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation is April 28th, 2006

> Affordable Units will be ready for occupancy in May For Questions and Information call (617) 876-5919 and Leave a Message.



* Section 8 Certificate holders are encouraged to apply



陳文惠 (Vivian Wenhuey Chen Huang) 這幾天 花了很多時間在位於安多 福(Andover)的家中寫詩作 畫。沉穩及溫和的語氣,實 在讓人很難將她聯想曾是 一位領導銀行營運的商場 女強人。十五年前,陳完成 了許多人想作卻無法達成 的創舉:集合投資人成立一 個以華埠爲基地的銀行以 符合波士頓華人新移民的 需要。

當時,波士頓的地方性 銀行面臨生存危機,許多銀 行紛紛倒閉。陳文惠勉力完 成向投資人集資 750 萬美元 以獲得州服執著,成立美洲 銀行。

鉴於華裔特别需要 創立 波城首家亞裔銀行

亞裔銀行 (特別是華人 銀行) 在加州和紐約遍地都 是, 但直到80年代末波士 頓還沒有一家。但陳文惠看 到波士頓華人社區尤其是 新移民圈對銀行業務有-個是主流銀行無法提供的 特別需要,便認識到波士頓 必須有一個亞裔銀行。陳文 惠便召集投資人,就開始向 州政府申請銀行執照。

因爲過去有不少社區 銀行都失敗的紀錄,州政府 起初並不太支持。股東們就 轉向聯邦「通貨審計辦公 室」(OCC)申請。OCC 根據加 州和紐約社區銀行的經驗, 支持成立華裔社區銀行,但 要求股東們籌集5百萬美 元的初始資金。對於亞裔人 口相對不那麼集中的波士

早年集合投資人創立美洲銀行的陳文惠

談自總裁及行政主任退位始末 認為美洲銀行被聯合銀行收購有長程利益

頓,要籌足5百萬是件不容 易的事。當一切準備就緒 時,正值波士頓房地產跌入 谷底的時候,許多房屋貸款 變壞,000 忙著處理破產的 銀行都來不及,更別提支持 新銀行的設立了。基于對經 濟情況的考慮,OCC 改變條 件,要申請人籌集到7百萬 美元。在這種艱難的經濟情 況下,股東們不得不暫時放

1991年,陳文惠又召集 原始股東們重新向州政府 申請。州政府此時考慮到社 區銀行會是一個重振社區 經濟,服務少數民族裔的好 辦法而給予支持,在股東們 籌集了 750 萬後,於 1993 年 發給美洲銀行執照,開創了 新英格蘭華人商業的新紀

陳於 2001 年"被迫"從 總裁兼首席執行長退居爲 16 個董事會成員中的-位。陳自那時起便擔任董事 會成員,直至去年底美洲銀 行被以加州爲基地的聯合 銀行收購爲止。

去年底,陳文惠婉拒與 本報記者談論她所主創的 美洲銀行被收購一事。上個 星期,陳終於願意與本報記 者談論當時被迫離開美洲 銀行的總裁兼首席執行長 一職及美洲銀行被收購的 感想。

内部口角及領導一職遭 能性。 护導致陳文惠被迫下台

如今儀表及精神皆富 朝氣活力的陳回顧當時被 迫離開美洲銀行的總裁兼 首席執行長是因爲不平的 內部口角及部份股東對她 的領導地位起了忌妒心 態。然而,陳對美洲銀行被 收購一事認爲,那是對長期 發展最好的選擇。

陳表示,董事會內有許 多成員包括她自己,在其他 的專業如醫學或工程表現 傑出,但對銀行業務並不是 非常有經驗。

陳並宣稱一些董事成 員對她在任總裁兼首席執 行長一職所受到的注意力 感到忌妒,而且他們急於擁 有更多的控制權。雖而其 他的董事會成員並不同意 陳以上的說法。

陳表示,「那些當時不 滿意她長期擔任總裁兼首 席執行長的董事成員們對 銀行營業的任何步驟都想 插上一手。將銀行當作自己 的俱樂部般看待。」陳對自 己在當時擔任總裁兼首席 執行長一職時,銀行的營業 額增至一億元感到欣慰,但 一些董事會成員並不認爲 這是個令人滿意的成就,認 爲這樣的營業增長太過緩 慢。銀行需要社區更多的信 任,以有更好的發展,而人 事的改組可以帶來這個可

陳指出她離開美洲銀 行總裁兼首席執行長一職 後,銀行業績一路下滑。自 2000年至 2004年,銀行的 業務收入下滑了 16.3%,年 度平均資產回饋由 2001 年 12月31日的.74%降至 2005年6月30日的.37%。

美洲銀行的總資産於 2005 年底, 達 1 億 3 干萬

然而,陳離開總裁兼首 席執行長一職後,美洲銀行 的總資產事實上仍在成長, 到 2005 年底, 達 1 億 3 千萬 元。自2002年起擔任美洲 銀行總裁兼首席執行長的 董繼中表示,我在加入董事 會後便進行必須的清理門 戶之動作。董終止了美洲銀 行內約 200 個董認爲不妥當 的戶頭。再者,董關閉了兩 個沒有良好盈利表現的兩 個分行。董表示,也許是以 上關閉戶頭及關閉部份分 行的行動對近期的營業帶 來影響,但我認爲這會爲銀 行帶來長期的穩固及健康

其他的亞裔銀行如國 泰銀行營業增長,美國主流 銀行如公民銀行及美國銀 行都聘請了更多的雙語專 員,提供更多的雙語提款 機。再者,聯邦政府在九一 一恐怖攻擊事件後縮緊對 銀行的規範。

部份董事成員: 需要一個 更有銀行經驗的人來領導

部份董事會成員表示, 陳在總裁一職中落選是因 爲董事會希望聘請一位在 銀行業務方面更有經驗的 人,如之前在J.P. Morgan Chase 工作,於銀行業有30 年經驗的董繼中。

長期擔任美洲銀行董 事會成員的 Harold Kwok 表 示,「我們不是要擺脫陳,我 們只是想找一個更有銀行 業務經驗的人帶美洲銀行 走向另一個階段。」Kwok 並 強調,對沒有銀行經驗的黃 陳能有這樣的傑出表現實 在很不錯。

另一個長期擔任美洲 銀行董事會成員的蔣宗壬 表示,「陳確實在領導美洲 銀行一事上有很多傑出的 貢獻。但是,美洲銀行需要 一個更有經驗的總裁及首 席執行者來面對前面的挑

陳文惠:美洲銀行幫助新 移民鼓勵華裔創業

來自臺灣的陳文惠於 臺灣及美國印地安大學皆 就讀法律,並於1973年與丈 夫遷居至麻州後在 Ropes & Gray開始她的律師生涯。

據陳表示,當初她想要 成立一間亞裔銀行的原因

是,許多美國主流銀行並沒 有適當地提供服務於華裔 社區,「他們(主流銀行)從信 任他們的華裔身上拿到錢, 卻投資在華裔社區以外的 地方,而不貸款給華裔企業 或社團。」

當美洲銀行開始營業 後,並針對以華裔爲主的亞 裔社區爲主要服務對象,如 支持華人創業,提供雙語業 務專員及雙語文件說明,並 在周末營業。

根據麻州銀行審議局 代理局長表示 Joesph A. Leonard Jr. 表示,「自 1988 年至 1994 年, 麻州有 40 家 銀行申請案被退回。那時是 銀行營業困頓的時期。自 1992 年至 1996 年,美洲銀 行是唯一申請到麻州營業 執照的銀行。」至 2005 年 11 月,美洲銀行有三個分行, 總資產占1億3千萬元。

美洲銀行被聯合銀行 收購 陳文惠樂觀其成陳文 惠的觀點,從自己自總裁及 首席執行者一職退位後,美 州銀行並沒有達到應有的 成功。對於自己主導創立的 美洲銀行如今被聯合銀行 收購,黃陳表示,「也許這可 將美州銀行推至成功的方 向, 聯合銀行也是華裔銀 行,他們知道我們顧客的需 要」。

(原文:史亞雷 编譯:張孟筠)

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星期日 8:30AM - 2:00PM 星期一 9:00AM - 5:30PM (成人科至 7:00pm 小兒科 至 6:00pm) 星期二至五 9:00AM - 5:30PM 星期六 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Quincy Clinic 昆西診所 275 Hancock St., Quincy, MA 02171

617-745-0280

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星期日 (每月第一及第三個星期日) 8:30 АМ - 12:30 РМ 星期一至二 8:30AM - 5:30PM (成人科至 6:30 pm) 星期三至五 8:30AM - 5:30PM 星期六 9:00AM - 3:00PM

South St Clinic 南街診所 145 South St., Boston, MA 02111 617-521-6730

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星期一至五 9:00AM - 5:30PM 星期六 9:00AM - 3:00PM

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